

America's

FUTURE

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FAKE, DELUSION AND SNARE

A paraphrase of a famous saying by Winston Churchill has been making the rounds in Washington. It goes like this: Never were so many big words used to cover up so little action. It refers to the administration's policy, or lack of policy, with regard to the threats of a frightened Khrushchev - frightened by growing troubles and unrest among his Red slaves.

According to Washington observers, Mr. Kennedy in six short months has built up an impressive series of blunders

on the foreign front. They point to the awful Cuban fiasco; to the big, brave words about Laos which turned out to be nothing more than words. They point to Mr. Kennedy's justified campaign criticism of summitry, and then his unseemly haste in rushing into another summit meeting with the communist boss. They wondered at a strange sort of lassitude that held the administration in its grip for days and weeks with regard to West Berlin. They wonder too at

the continued drive to recognize Red China; at a practical insult to Free China by playing footsie with Communist Outer Mongolia; at so many other examples of harshness to anti-communist nations and kindness to pro-communist ones.

Americans ask themselves: What is behind all this? We do not pretend to know the whole answer, but something said by Mr. Robert D. Murphy in a commencement address last month sticks in our minds. Mr. Murphy is a former Under Secretary of State who spent 43 years in the American diplomatic service. He said: 'For some strange and mysterious reason there are those in high places of influence who seem to convince themselves that a deal (with Russia) is possible; that an understanding could be reached if we can just find the

formula...Instead, we must take at face value the Kremlin's threat to world conquest...The thought that a massive package deal is possible is a fake, a delusion and a snare.'

Mr. Murphy may have put his finger on the heart of the matter. Washington observers for a moment saw a glimmer of hope that the President was coming to realize it. The hope was based on rumored changes in administration personnel. They turned out to be just that - rumors. Besides, it is asked, even if true, would such changes be basic? Until we get rid of 'those in high places of influence' who would perpetuate this fake, delusion and snare, we are playing fast and loose with the peace and security of the United States and the world.

PAYING NEIGHBOR'S BILLS

How would you like it if your next-door neighbor handed you his bill for electricity and told you that you must pay part of it? You would probably laugh in his face or tell him to go jump in the lake. If, by some chance, you took him seriously for a moment, and asked him where

he got such a wild idea, he might say: 'Well, if I can get you to pay part of my bill, naturally that makes the rate at which I pay for my electricity that much cheaper.' At that point you would decide he had gone stark, raving mad. But hold on a minute. Maybe it's YOU

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who have gone a little bit crazy, because you are paying part of somebody else's electric bills — those of your neighbors in certain states where a big electric power project called the Tennessee Valley Authority is run by the national government.

Recently, the TVA became very sentimental. It was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Senator George Norris, the original sponsor of the TVA. So a big show was put on at the White House. The cast of characters included President Kennedy, a number of congressmen, and the chairman of the TVA. They all had their pictures taken, and then they announced an anniversary gift to the resi-

dents of the states in which TVA operates. But government officials seldom if ever give away anything of their own. This group was no exception. They presented the users of TVA electric power with an eight percent reduction in rates. This generous-seeming shindig served two purposes. It made it look as though government-run power projects can be very kindly and considerate to people living in their areas. And, more important, it made it look as though only government-owned power projects are efficient enough to cut rates. One headline, for instance, read: 'TVA Cuts Rates to New National Low.' That headline makes a villain, by implication, of every privately-run utility company in America.

But the politicians' generosity is carried out with YOUR money. And besides, the newest TVA 'gift' turned out to be a bit phony. It's phony because it isn't really a rate cut at all. TVA sells electric power wholesale to various distributors who in turn sell it to retail customers. TVA did not reduce its wholesale price. It gives distributors a choice of selling its power at a maximum, middle or minimum rate.

TVA merely added a fourth rate to the choice - the so-called national low. Most distributors sell at the highest rate, but the lower rates are a sort of club used by TVA to force private competing utilities to sell power at a loss or below a comfortable profit. A few city-owned distributing plants may sell at the new low rate because they can make up the difference out of taxpayers' funds. But the big fanfare about a fake eight percent rate cut is designed to make TVA look good. As someone said, this phony rate cut is about the same as if a single auto dealer decided to risk a loss, reduced a car price, and then the company making the car took credit for a price cut.

But the most important thing to keep in mind about government-run power projects like the TVA is that they can never compete on any fair basis with privately-owned

utilities. Of course the government project sells electricity cheaper, but it does it by paying little or no taxes and by borrowing money from the government at a much lower rate of interest than private companies must pay. The difference is made up by you - by all the American taxpayers. They must pay the taxes which TVA does not pay. In other words, when you pay your own electric bill, you are buying a product which is produced efficiently and at a fair price. Then when you pay your federal tax bill, you are also paying part of the electric bills of the people who are getting supposedly 'cheap' electricity from TVA. For example, a private utility which produced half as much electricity as TVA paid *five times* as much in taxes as did TVA. Somebody has to make up the difference. You - the American taxpayer - are the one who coughs up.

THE 'LIBERAL' STANDARD

Have you noted the amount of indignation generated by the 'liberal' press over a recent activity of the controversial John Birch Society? The Society asked its members to collect data and keep ac-

curate files on communist sympathizers, socialists and 'liberals.' The 'liberals,' led by the *N.Y. Times*, are horrified. The *Times* said "the whole idea of a private group...drawing up a 'little

list' is - or ought to be - abhorrent." For once, we agree with the *Times*. We think the collection of dossiers should be left to police departments, the FBI and authorized committees of Congress. But how come we heard never a peep from the *Times* and its 'liberal' cohorts when the National Education Association announced the compilation of dossiers on what it calls 'critics' of education? And where were the embattled 'li-

berals' during all the years that certain racial and religious organizations were building up their own 'little lists?' Some of the 'liberals' no doubt were helping to compile the dossiers! Here, once again, is the sickening 'liberal' double-standard. Evidently it is all right, even commendable, for leftist-'liberals' to act the role of Big Brother, but it is 'abhorrent' when an anti-communist, conservative group does so.

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 7/23/61

Book Review **TALE OF A LIVELY PERSONALITY**

TELL IT TO SWEENEY by John Chapman, 288 pages, Doubleday, New York, \$4.95.

In the foreword to a pamphlet by Reuben Maury, chief editorial writer of the *New York Daily News*, we once remarked that *The News* is 'a publishing phenomenon which has successfully survived many competitors and imitators.' This book is an informal biography of that phenomenon, written in an easy, bright and gossipy style by its drama critic. The story of the uncertain birth, struggling childhood and current virile youth (it

stays young and vigorous despite its more than 40 years) of 'New York's Picture Newspaper' makes wonderful reading any time, but is especially good hammock, beach or porch fare because it is chockful of good yarns.

Mr. Chapman has wisely told his tale in terms of the men and women who made *The News*, starting of course with its founder and boss until his death, Joseph Medill Patterson. Patterson was newspaper publisher extraordinary; a socialist in his youth; one-time admirer of FDR; he broke with both and, more important,

did not mind admitting the error of his ways and making amends for them in a trenchant anti-communist pro-Americanism which is the paper's editorial policy to this day.

It is almost an axiom in the newspaper business that behind every successful paper is the single guiding hand of an aggressive publisher or editor. *The News* is nearly unique in having survived its founder's death, maintained its spirit, its highly unorthodox, up-to-the-minute manner of news coverage and feature production, and going on to greater heights than ever. It has the largest daily circulation of any newspaper in the United States.

Mr. Chapman's title comes from a slogan dreamed up by a *News* advertising man in an effort to attract advertising to the young upstart: 'Tell it to Sweeney! The Stuyvesants will understand.' *The News*' advertising, news coverage, editorials and features have always been pitched to the Sweeneys. Just the same, Mr. Chapman does not mention that a British publicist made an exhaustive study of American newspapers a few years back. He named *The News* as one of only three papers which had achieved 'in

the superlative degree' the talent 'to create a paper having the tang and characteristic of a distinctive personality' and did so without resorting to radicalism. How that personality came to be is the story of this book.

As Mr. Chapman points out, there was a time in the career of the liveliest tabloid in America when nearly the entire population of New York seemed to be employed as cooks. Practically everybody read *The News*, but it was the fashion to say 'the cook brings it in.' Even today there are pseudo-intellectuals who still sneer at *The News*, probably from sheer envy (while reading it secretly). Any 'liberal' daily would give its eyeteeth for the 60 percent readership (the usual rate is about 15 percent) of its editorial page. As to *The News*' growing influence outside the great metropolitan area it serves, an editorial about a recent *America's Future* pamphlet brought inquiries from New England, Florida, Michigan, South Dakota, Arizona and a dozen other states - from corporation heads, plant workmen, housewives, teachers, etc. Not bad for a paper 'the cook brings in.' - Rosalie Gordon

THE WHY OF A REPUBLIC

"Why did our Founding Fathers ordain that the U.S.A. should be a Republic and not a Democracy? Simply because they knew that the former form of government insures liberty and freedom for *all* citizens, while a Democracy does not.

"Both Republics and Democracies are forms of representative governments, in which the supreme power is retained by the people and exercised by them. Our American Republic in a sense is a restricted and limited Democracy. The main difference between the two is in the degree of majority rule.

"In a Democracy majority rule is unrestricted. In a Republic majority rule is restricted.

"Our Constitution, in its Bill of Rights, definitely places limitations on the power of our representatives at Washington. They are denied the power to abridge our freedom of speech and press and religion; and trial by jury. They must protect us from unreasonable searches and seizures. They must act so regardless of how much the majority might be opposed to these individual rights.

"Under a Democracy, there is no such protection of individual rights against the rule of the majority. The Constitution sets up every safeguard to protect us against unrestricted majority rule. It provides representation for the minority as well as for the majority. Were the U.S.A. a Democracy instead of a Republic, the will of the majority would

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be forced upon the will of the minority. A Republic, on the other hand, creates and develops tolerance that guards against tyranny of the majority." - *George Peck in the syndicated service THE AMERICAN WAY*

AROUND OUR NECKS

"Every six employed persons in our country pays the wages of a seventh who works for government: federal, state or local...and that applies to civilian workers only - military personnel is not included."

- *CHRISTIAN ECONOMICS*

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